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CIA Planned My Lai Massacre, Paper Says

Attack Called Deliberate Effort to Destroy
an Entire Village as 'Lesson to the Enemy'

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—The Sunday Oklahoman says Pentagon sources have concluded that the 1968 My Lai massacre in South Vietnam "was planned and coordinated with the Central Intelligence Agency in a deliberate attempt to wipe out an entire village and its civilian population as a lesson to the enemy."

The Oklahoman, quoting unnamed sources, said that the assault, in which nearly 450 Vietnamese civilians were slain, was the second CIA-planned attack on the village.

It said the sources claimed that subsequent Army actions, including an inquiry and the placing of charges against 25 persons, were a coverup, "designed only to quiet public indignation . . . and were manipulated to avoid implicating either the CIA or military policy . . ."

The Oklahoman article was written by Jack Taylor, who has made a lengthy investigation of the My Lai massacre.

Anonymity Guaranteed

Taylor said his sources agreed to talk only after being guaranteed anonymity. He said they included five Army officers "who have been deeply involved in the My Lai affair and who have had access to secret documents about the massacre."

Two of the sources, Taylor said, were involved in the planning and

execution of the operation itself."

Taylor said the newspaper's investigation had turned up circumstantial evidence to support the sources' claim but had been unable to find "explicit proof in any documents available to the public."

The article said that evidence within the Army was circumstantial because virtually all of the My Lai planning was verbal and documentation would exist only within the CIA.

The article says the sources contend that the Army investigation headed by Lt. Gen. William R. Peers was a smokescreen and that Peers was purposely chosen for his "extensive CIA background . . . in order to insure that the investigation would steer clear of that aspect."

Army Closed Its Books

The Army said last September that it was closing its books on the My Lai affair. The only person ever convicted of criminal charges in the case was 1st Lt. William L. Calley Jr.; two officers and a sergeant received administrative penalties.

The Army Court of Military Review last month upheld Calley's 20-year sentence. His lawyers have said they will appeal to the Court of Military Appeals, the military equivalent of the Supreme Court, and President Nixon has said he personally will make the final review.